**CHIEF OF POLICE** | **BRENT SHATTO** | 114 North 6th St | Estherville, IA 51334 | (712) 362-3515

**2020 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT**

Welcome to the 2020 End of the Year Report of the Estherville Police Department.

Let me first thank the Honorable Mayor Joseph May and the Estherville City Council for your ongoing and continued support. You provide us with the finances and equipment to do the work that we need to do. Without you, we would be just another police department doing mediocre work. We have an extremely professional police department that I am very proud of and hope that you are as well. We are representatives of our city and do so with honor, integrity, courage, and pride.

I would also like to thank the remainder of the City Administration and Staff. We believe that we have an excellent working relationship with each and every department within this city. The other departments assist us in many ways throughout the year. We certainly would not be able to do the work that we do without great partnerships and working relationships that we maintain within the city.

We cannot thank our community members and businesses enough for the amazing show of support to our officers. Every year we are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that we receive. We are truly honored to serve such great community members. ***Thank you All!***

The final numbers for 2020 will be attached in our end of the year statistical report.

2020 was a difficult year for many reasons. During the COVID-19 outbreak in the Spring of 2020, we were forced to conduct business very different than we had in the past. We started taking care of as much as we could via phone or email. We limited people coming into the police department for complaints and other matters. We were asked to wear masks. The public was asked to wear masks into businesses, banks, and other public areas. Mask wearing makes it difficult for officers to identify subjects and makes it very difficult to read a person’s emotions with not being able to see their faces, while conducting investigations. Early into the pandemic, it was equally difficult to find supplies to protect our officers who were responding calls for service. We were able to work with Emmet County Public Health and Emmet County Emergency Management to obtain some of the proper protective gear for our responding officers. Some of those supplies were donated to our department and some we purchased. We had some very generous donations of protective gear from our local citizens. We certainly cannot thank them enough.

In 2020, we also saw a great turn around in our relationship with the public. Locally, we have great relationships but at times, found those even strained. Nationally police officers everywhere found themselves in difficult situations and the tide turned from wide public support of officers, to wide dislike

of what officers were doing around the country. Our Officers were able to adapt to all of the new things that our profession was enduring and have become better officers because of it. We also planned and prepared for large events.

In November of 2020, 7 of 11 of our officers contracted COVID-19 at about the same time. That left 4 officers to cover our shifts while the rest of us were off work. This was a trying time for those officers, but they took care of the rest of us by covering our shifts. We truly appreciate their help during that difficult time.

**Personnel Changes:**

In January 2020, Sergeant Greg VanLangen transferred from the Police Department to City Hall and officially retired from the Police Department in March. Sergeant Matt Hellickson resigned from his position to take a position with the Spirit Lake Police Department in April. Sergeant VanLangen’s open position was not filled. Sergeant Hellickson’s position was filled by Officer Jacob Hinrickson from Pocahontas. Officer Connor Roos resigned in August 2020 to take a job with the Iowa State Patrol. In November, we hired Officer Ethan Roach to fill the open position left by Officer Roos. Officer Roach resigned in December 2020 as he decided to return to school to further his career in Small Engine Mechanics. We hate to see officers leave, but I also tell them that they need to do what is best for them and their families.

In June of 2020, selections were made to fill the open Supervisor Positions within the Estherville Police Department. We had very qualified candidates for each and every position and the decisions to promote and specially assign officers come with a great deal of angst for me. These are the hardest decisions that I have to make. With that being said, the following Officers were promoted:

Nathaniel Dunlavy was promoted to the Rank of Captain.

Matthew Reineke and Cory Danner were promoted to the Rank of Sergeant.

Ryan Arends was appointed as the School Resource Officer.

Andrew Clayton was appointed as the Detective.

Brent Shatto Chief of Police Nathaniel Dunlavy Captain

Matthew Reineke Sergeant Cory Danner Sergeant

Tyler Van Roekel Police Officer Ryan Arends Police Officer/SRO

Andrew Clayton Detective Matthew Adams Police Officer

Nicholas Helmich Police Officer Reno Doty Police Officer

Jacob Hinrickson Police Officer Open

**Police Reserves:**

The Estherville Police Reserves remain an integral part of our department. We rely heavily on their assistance at major crime scenes and acting as extra patrol officers during community events. The reserve officers also assisted with the search for suspects in Fort Defiance and South of Estherville. The reserves helped with security at Avera Holy Family Hospital with persons having mental crisis. One of the officers assists us with technology issues within the department. They assist us at events that include: 4th of July Flight Breakfast, ELC Prom, Sweet Corn Days, Parade of Lights, Homecoming Week Activities, Fright Hike, and Halloween Association Events Drug Take Back, just to name a few. As you can see, these folks are a tremendous asset.

Officers Matt Reineke and Officer Ryan Arends are our Reserve Liaison Officers. Our police reserves currently are all Academy Certified Police Reserves and have been trained in firearms, thus allowing them to carry a sidearm and use our shotgun and rifles. The reserve officers must complete the

certification process within their first 18 months of employment. There are several educational modules that they must take and pass.

In 2020, we had 5 Police Reserve Officers and added 5 for a total of 10. One of the new hires was already a state certified police reserve. The other 4 new reserves attended training in Marshalltown on a grant. We are authorized to have 10 Police Reserve Officers.

In the fall of 2020, I received a grant to send the 4 new reserve officers to be trained in all of the training modules. The State Center, Iowa Chief of Police received a grant and extended the opportunity to other agencies. The grant included all motel rooms, meals, training ammunition and training materials. The 4 police reserves will soon be on the street fully trained and equipped. The grant for the training was approximately $5,000. During this training, we were able to obtain approximately $12,000 in firearms to outfit our new reserves and our police vehicles for free through a gift from the State of Iowa.

Those officers logged the following hours:

220 Hours Assisting our agency with ride time and working special events.

332 Hours of Training

The police reserves are a volunteer organization that is funded by grants and fundraising. There is very minimal funding for this group from the general fund. These hours were also dramatically reduced from previous years due to the Pandemic.

**Canine:**

The police department K9, Max and Officer Matt Reineke continue to make our department proud. Officer Reineke does an outstanding job with training and maintaining our K9. They continue to provide service to outside agencies that request the assistance of a K9, as well.

In 2020 Officer Reineke and Max were called out 31 times. The call outs include:

5-Tracking

1-Article Searches

13-Narcotic Searches

12-Agency Assists

The highlights for the K9 program for 2020 were: Tracking a Felon with a firearm for the Spirit Lake Police Department where the suspect was charged in Federal Court. Assistance was given to the Milford Police Department with a Stabbing Incident. We conducted a School Search for North Union High School in Armstrong. Max discovered 1 Ounce of Methamphetamine on a Traffic Stop and found 2 Ounces of Marijuana during a package delivery.

**Training:**

Officers of the Estherville Police Department continue to be trained in all aspects of Law Enforcement. When we must send an officer to the academy during any particular year, it dramatically affects our training budget. We have had to make some previous budget amendments to help make it through on the years that we have an officer attend the police academy. In 2020, we sent 3 Officers to the Law Enforcement Academy. Officers Helmich and Officers Doty attended the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy at Camp Dodge. The course is 16 weeks. Officer Hinrickson attended Hawkeye Community College’s Short Version of the Academy. He attended for 10 weeks. The cost is more than $10,000 each for the academies, not including the amount of time that they are attending.

We have also purchased and complete an online training series each month that provides our officers with up-to-date information and meets several training requirements by the state. Our officers do attend different trainings around the state and Mid-West when we are able to send them.

We spend a tremendous amount of time training within our agency. We have certified instructors in Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, Defensive Tactics, Chemical Munitions, Taser, Radar, ALICE Building Clearing, Active Shooter, Pursuit Intervention Technique, Driving, and Firearms. During our monthly staff meetings, we attempt to have an update or hands-on training.

2020 Training: 2,659.5 Hours

Training Highlights: Basic Narcotics Officer Investigation, Medicolegal Death Investigation, Homicide Investigation, Canine Certification, Taser Instructor Recertification and Firearms Instructor School.

**Community Involvement:**

The Estherville Police Department and its officers are engaged heavily in our community. Our officers are active members in numerous organizations and attend numerous meetings. I will list several, but will likely forget all that we participate in.

* SART (Sexual Assault Response Team)
* JAM (Juvenile Action Meeting) Dealing with particularly violent children.
* Wellness Coalition (Bicycle Safety Event) with many community partners.
* DARE
* Noon Kiwanis
* Estherville Halloween Association
* Iowa Lakes Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Board
* Wellness Fair at the RWC
* Coaching Youth Sports (Football, Flag Football, Wrestling, Baseball, and Softball)
* High School and College Sports Officials
* The Emmet County Fair Board
* Iowa High School and Junior High Rodeo
* HOPES - Chief Shatto is a member of the team. Hopes is a core group of professionals that meet each month to discuss children that are placed at Forest Ridge. The group is challenged to bring solutions for youth who are experiencing barriers to exiting shelter placement in a timely manner.
* Partnership with ELC Schools and ILCC

We continue to have great working relationships with both educational institutions.

We work with both entities in regard to safety and security within their buildings. Officer Arends continues as the School Resource Officer at ELC Schools. See his report attached. Our officers make every attempt to patrol the school areas before, at lunch, and after school. We have an educational session each year at the ILCC Freshman Orientation and Housing Meetings. We also visit classrooms and attend numerous events throughout the year. Officers attend and are present at community events and sporting events when they are able.

* Saturation Patrols for the sTEP Grant with the Emmet County Sheriff’s Office and Armstrong Police Department
* We have partnered with numerous area schools to provide job shadows for students each year.
* Partnership with State Farm Insurance for providing Ice Cream Cone “Tickets” for safe bicycle riding habits.

**Other Involvements:**

Our officers have been a member of LEIN (Law Enforcement Intelligence Network) for 36 years. In 2020, we were not able to attend very many meetings, due to COVID-19. LEIN is an excellent way to share intelligence information with other agencies in Northwest Iowa and build relationships with their officers.

We continue membership in MOCIC (Mid-States Crime Information Center) that provides a plethora of Nationwide Intelligence information.

We are current members of the Iowa Great Lakes Drug Task Force and have been for the last 23 years. Chief Shatto serves on the Executive Board of the Task Force.

We have participated in another drug take back program with the DEA collecting nearly 100 pounds of prescription drugs.

We are also an active member of the HEAT Tactical Team. We have been involved in the team since its inception in 1998, when then Chief of Police Paul Farber played an integral part in the development of the team. Many Chiefs and Sheriffs found that they could not support a tactical team on their own and saw the need to combine their forces. There are currently 28 participating agencies in Northwest Iowa and Southwest Minnesota. The team averages about 15 callouts each year.

The team is being led by Officer Todd Schillinger of the Arnolds Park Police Department. It currently has 25 tactical operators that we can access at any time for a major incident. The team is very well equipped and trained and is considered to be one of the best teams in the area. The team has most assets that very large metropolitan agencies have, including a Drone, Robot and an Armored Vehicle to protect the officers.

Chief Shatto serves on the Executive Board of the Tactical Team and is a Trained Crisis Negotiator and is the Negotiation Team Leader. He also serves the Command Support Officer. Officer Ryan Arends joined the team in January of 2020 as a tactical operator.

Chief Shatto also serves at the Chairman of the Emmet County Emergency Management Commission and the Vice Chairman of the Emmet County 911 Board. He also serves as the President of the Emmet County First Responders Association/Coalition.

Our department continues to partner with the Alcoholic Beverage Division to conduct tobacco compliance checks at our local retail establishments. We also continue to receive grant funding through our participation in sTEP (special Traffic Enforcement Project). This year we purchased an in-car video system to put in our 2020 Ford Explorer. We have participated in that program since 2002 and has provided us with many pieces of equipment, radars, lidars, Portable Breath Testers and Mobile Video Cameras.

In June of 2020, Sergeant Danner started a program called the Community Camera Program. The program was pushed out to businesses and community members. The idea is that if a business or private person has a camera installed at their location, they would share that information with the police department. If a crime were committed in the area of a known camera location, officers could then contact the camera owner to see if they captured the criminal activity. Of course, the program is completely voluntary, and we would consider it an additional investigative resource when solving crimes.

Our agency was very fortunate and received several grants from local businesses and organizations during 2020. We have been very blessed to obtain and equipment through these funds. We have received grants from the Emmet County Foundation, approximately $9,000; Monetary grants from Team Amy and Northstar Bank and Agency. We have received a very generous grant from local agencies that funded a complete replacement of our in-car computers. We used the remaining funds to purchase many pieces of equipment, help fund our police reserves, and DARE.

We continue to have an excellent working relationship with other City of Estherville departments. Your Street Department, Electricians, and Wastewater Treatment personnel have assisted us in many ways, but especially at our firing range training facility. They have hauled material for the berm, put down crushed asphalt, put in poles and moved electricity, cut down trees, mow, and spray weeds, among other things. Because of these folks, we have one of the nicest firing range training facilities in Northwest Iowa. We cannot thank them enough.

**Media:**

We have an outstanding working relationship with our local media outlets. KILR has been partnering with us for a several years to allow us to speak on the radio about things that are going on within the police department. It has been an outstanding opportunity for us to spread the word about all of the great things that we are involved in. The Estherville News has also been more than willing to accept our news releases and articles that we provide to them. We appreciate the great relationships that we share with these two local media outlets.

We continue to maintain our Facebook, Twitter and WENS media resources. We have continued to keep our department website updated.

There are many activities and organizations that we are involved in, and I am sure that I did not list them all. My apologies to anyone that I have forgotten.

**Major Incidents:**

In late August and Early September, the police department assisted in the search for two fugitives on two separate occasions. The first incident occurred in Fort Defiance State Park when an Emmet County Deputy on patrol observed a subject in the park that he believed was wanted on arrest warrants. As the Deputy approached the subject, he ran into the wooded area. Due to the suspect possibly being armed, officers set a perimeter around the park. The incident lasted several hours and concluded with the successful capture of the suspect.

The September incident occurred South of Estherville on Highway 4. An Emmet County Deputy observed a vehicle that was described as a suspect vehicle involved in a hit and run in Estherville just minutes before. As the Deputy turned around to attempt to stop the suspect vehicle, it fled southbound on Highway 4. The suspect turned West on to a gravel road, jumped out of the vehicle and fled into a corn field. Officers from several agencies, including the Estherville Police Department spent several hours on a perimeter as teams searched the field for the suspect. The suspect was captured the following morning and faced numerous charges.

**Investigations:**

Our investigator in 2020 has been very busy covering open shifts, thus making it difficult to work many investigations. The cases that are generated when the Investigator is covering shifts, come from the patrol officers. Our Investigator and Officers have worked on many cases and conducted numerous investigations, as you will see in our Crime Report numbers.

Drug Enforcement Activity for 2020:

Search Warrants Served: 10 Felony Drug Arrests: 4

Misdemeanor Drug Arrests: 13

Drugs Seized:

Marijuana: 53.34 Grams Marijuana Concentrates: 1 Gram

Methamphetamine: 1.8 Grams Other: 47.55 Grams

Firearms seized through Drug Arrests: 3

Detective Clayton is assigned to Investigations and has assisted other agencies with drug related investigations as a member of the Iowa Great Lakes Drug Task Force.

We hope to have more time for Detective Clayton to work these types of cases in 2021.

**Vehicle Abatements:**

13 Vehicle Abatements were completed from August 2020 through December 31st. Our data was lost in conversion for the January through July vehicle abatements. We typically abate around 100 per year.

**School Resource Officer:**

Officer Ryan Arends was appointed to take over the SRO position from Captain Dunlavy. Officer Arends has adapted well and is doing a great job in the school buildings. It will take some time to get Ryan all of the certifications that he will need. We will continue to work on getting him the tools that he needs for this job.

A program that Captain Dunlavy started was the DFiNow program. Officer Arends has completed the training to be able to instruct this course and will continue where Captain Dunlavy left off. This was a program that he got certified to teach in classrooms at the 6th-8th levels.  There is also a high school curriculum that he is still attempting to find a class to come and present the information in.  The middle school curriculum was a success for the first year of teaching the program.  Some of the topics covered at the different grade levels consisted of internet safety, sexting, relationships, sexual harassment, substance abuse, marijuana, vaping, and alcohol use.  The classes generated a ton of discussion and interaction between the students.  The teachers were very happy with the presentation and want to continue the program into the future. Although the school resource program is still in what we could consider in the infant stages, we believe that the program has been beneficial.  You can see a difference in how the kids are interacting with the resource officer and has helped us establish a tremendous relationship with the public.

Although we have these new programs, we continue to offer the DARE program and continue to assist the school in any way that we can.  In this ever-changing world that we live in it is even more important for us as law enforcement to find ways to serve our community better.  This program has been and will continue to be a great tool for us to serve the community.

Total Incidents (School Related):

**2019 2020 2019 2020**

Accidents: 8 9 Assaults/Disorderly: 41 22

Criminal Mischief: 3 5 Drugs/Tobacco: 15 1/3

Harassment: 10 7 Mental Health/Medical: 17 9

Parking Issues: 4 3 Sex Assault/Child Abuse: 2 2

Theft: 5 6 Traffic: 65 96

Truancy/Welfare: 34 45 Miscellaneous: 122 257

Security Checks: 509 546 Classes Taught: 166 65

Public Relations: 109 64 Meetings: 92 54

Training: 2 9

The Estherville Police Department entered into an agreement with the Emmet County Sheriff’s Office and the E911 Board for Emmet County to purchase a Records Management System and Computer Aided Dispatch for all emergency services in Emmet County. The records management portion is where we will get all our monthly and annual report numbers for your review. This was a major project at a cost of nearly $250,000 to the agencies involved. The program started in August of 2020. We hope to have many of the wrinkles ironed out by the time you get your 2021 report. The numbers for this year are from our old system combined with 4 months of the new system. You will likely see a large increase in “Calls for Service”. This is due to having better records and record keeping of what our officers are doing every day.

**Statistics for the years of 2019 and 2020**

**2019** **2020**

Calls for Service: **4,334** **5,805**

Adult Arrests: 166 190

Agency Assists: 171 129

Ambulance/Rescue: 273 324

Animal Complaint: 188 187

Assault: 48 29

Burglary: 58 14

Child Abuse: 16 16

Civil: 187 127

Community Meeting/Event: 126 103

Criminal Mischief: 72 52

Death: 10 11

Disorderly Conduct: 43 46

Disturbing the Peace: 58 79

Domestic Assault: 18 26

Domestic Verbal: 67 42

Drugs: 43 24

Forgery: 2 4

Fraud: 81 54

Harassment: 122 81

House Checks: 152 113

Mental: 79 80

Missing/Runaway: 33 29

Miscellaneous: 1391 1457

OWI: 33 12

Records Checks: 120 74

Robbery: 2 0

**2019** **2020**

Sexual Assaults: 19 12

Theft/ID Theft: 98 98

Traffic Citation: 186 160

Traffic Stop: 732 771

Written Warning: 125 177

Verbal Warning: 138 651

Trespass: 80 53

Vio. No Contact Order: 46 13

Welfare Check: 116 174

Arrest Warrants Served: 53 15

Alarm Calls: 108 52

Motorists Assists: 66 60

Juvenile Arrests: 15 15

Liquor Violations: 52 18

K-9/Interdiction Stops: 13 31

Accidents Property Damage: 153 115

Personal Injury: 23 7

**2020 Annual Report**

Prepared by Chief of Police Brent Shatto